

BACHELOR DEGREES

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (BTh)

The Bachelor of Theology degree prepares students to integrate biblical scholarship with service to God's Church. Students who complete this five-year degree will be ready to serve as preaching or teaching ministers in local churches and to continue in graduate study towards careers in academia. Unique aspects of the program include: three years of biblical language study (including two years of biblical Greek and one year of biblical Hebrew), specialized courses in theology, and a capstone course using original languages for biblical exegesis.

Program Coordinator: Jon Kehrer

Students completing the B.Th. will be able to:

1. Use knowledge of biblical languages to conduct writing and research.
2. Exegete a biblical text in conjunction with the original context of the document.
3. Interpret and appropriately apply biblical texts for a ministry context.
4. Explain theological categories and their relationship to biblical texts.
5. Describe the Ancient Near Eastern, Jewish, and Greco-Roman contexts that surround and impact the biblical text.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (BACM): MINISTRY MAJORS

Biblical Communication Major – This program is designed to prepare male and female students to communicate biblical truth accurately and persuasively to a variety of audiences. Students enrolled in this major take all core biblical communication classes, appropriate ministry electives, preaching seminars, and an internship or field experience in the biblical communication area. Students experience the opportunity to preach in class several times as well as in a variety of ministry contexts.

Program Coordinator: Mark Scott

Students completing the BA in Biblical Communication will be able to:

1. Define preaching in its theological, ecclesiastical, and cultural contexts.
2. Preach from, through, and like the Bible in written work.
3. Preach from, through, and like the Bible in class and ministry contexts.
4. Produce a preaching portfolio containing sermons from classes and ministry contexts, doctrine of preaching philosophy, and growth plan for preaching into the future.
5. Lead the church from the pulpit and from other ministry contexts available.

Biblical Justice Major – This program is designed to prepare students to engage in ministries involved in the fight against social injustices. Students in this program will receive a strong theological foundation that communicates the heart of God to redeem both the physical and spiritual lives of broken humanity. In addition, the program integrates a strong practical approach through direct interaction with local churches, para-church organizations, and cross-cultural contexts that implement justice ministries of a wide variety.

Program Coordinator: Wade Landers

Students completing the BA in Biblical Justice will be able to:

1. Articulate the theological foundation for biblical justice.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of justice issues and strategies for engaging in justice work.
3. Explain a clear and specific understanding of the dual nature of evangelism and meeting social needs in Biblical justice work.
4. Describe the major issues that confront those engaged in justice work and have developed a personal response to those issues.

5. Apply practical approaches to justice work from a field-based understanding of Biblical justice work
6. Employ a plan for engaging in justice work from a Biblical perspective by graduation.

Children's Ministry Major – This program equips students to design and lead educational programs for children (birth-age 13) and their families in church and parachurch ministries. Students will be trained in issues of faith development in children, creating age-appropriate lesson materials, and equipping volunteers for service. Upon completion, students will possess the skills to develop and administer a children's ministry program and serve as a children's minister/director or other ministry roles.

Program Coordinator: Teresa Welch

Students completing the BA in Children's Ministry will be able to:

1. Articulate a philosophy of children's ministry consistent with biblical principles and an understanding of childhood development.
2. Effectively and correctly teach the Bible to children in creative and age-appropriate ways.
3. Recruit, train, and encourage volunteers to serve in a children's ministry.
4. Create and administrate an effective and contextualized children's ministry program for a church or para-church organization that will incorporate weekly educational programming with special events, intergenerational ministry, and service opportunities.
5. Equip parents to educate their children in scripture and assess their spiritual development.
6. Design and implement a child-safe environment and plan for children's ministry.
7. Serve on a ministry team, demonstrating awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses as a leader, team member.

Christian Formation Major – This program is designed to prepare students for various types of ministries to adults (Discipleship, Small Group, Campus, Family, Men's Women's, College Age, or Seniors Ministries) in various church or parachurch organizations. Students in this program will participate in courses focused on personal and community formation toward facilitating a culture of discipleship.

Program Coordinator: Doug Welch

Students completing the BA in Christian Formation will be able to:

1. Disciple adults in various types of ministry settings
2. Articulate God's desire for authentic community
3. Facilitate a culture of discipleship
4. Describe the process of spiritual formation

Church Planting Major – This program is designed for students who wish to participate in the establishment of new congregations. Students will be equipped to manage themselves, raise funds, navigate team dynamics, and faithfully contextualize the Gospel in diverse cultural settings. Student will engage in traditional classroom experiences with additional off-site educational opportunities in places such as New York City and San Francisco, along doing an internship at a church plant.

Program Coordinator: Mike Ackerman

Students completing the BA in Church Planting will be able to:

1. Faithfully contextualize the Gospel in diverse cultural settings.
2. Establish a new congregation for a specific context.

3. Recruit and lead a team.
4. Identify their strengths and weaknesses as a church planter.

Creative Arts Ministry Major – This program is designed to prepare students in a variety of skills and principles related to creative arts ministry. In addition to developing a theology of technology and pastoral leadership skills, students will gain hands-on experience with audio, video, and lighting equipment. Project-based courses allow students to develop a portfolio of their work in audio recording, video production, and graphic arts. Graduates from this program will serve the church and parachurch organizations in the areas of worship production and creative arts ministry.

Program Coordinator – Matt Stafford

Students completing the BA in Creative Arts Ministry will be able to:

1. Articulate a philosophy of ministry that integrates biblical, historical, and cultural dynamics of Christian worship with technology commonly utilized in contemporary Christian worship.
2. Identify the major components of an audio system, troubleshoot audio problems, and operate the system effectively.
3. Work with a team to design and assemble worship environments involving lighting, video projection, and stage sets.
4. Identify the major components of a video projection system and operate the system effectively in a worship setting.
5. Identify the major components of a lighting system and be able to program and operate lights utilizing color theory and techniques appropriate for the worship context.
6. Create media content for print, projection, audio, and video playback
7. Plan and direct all of the technical elements of a worship service.
8. Manage a website to facilitate communication with the worshipping community and utilize social media to expand interaction.

Christian Ministry Major – Rather than offering field specific preparation, this program takes a broader approach to ministry preparation. Vocationally, a graduate in this program may serve in various ministries within a church or parachurch organization. General Ministry would be an attractive option to a student who desires the flexibility of getting some training in multiple fields of ministry. A larger number of ministry elective hours are offered in this program for students to pursue different areas of interest.

Program Coordinator: Chad Ragsdale

Students completing the BA in Christian Ministry will be able to:

1. Articulate a philosophy of Christian service consistent with a biblical theology.
2. Demonstrate the ability to engage the culture in which Christian service takes place.
3. Execute the principles of biblical discipleship within their Christian service context.
4. Communicate biblical truth.
5. Work collaboratively with a team.
6. Develop and implement specific initiatives for ministry.
7. Provide basic pastoral care for the hurting.

Intercultural Studies Major – This program is designed for students who wish to develop their skills and deepen their passion for ministry that crosses cultural barriers. This preparation is accomplished with three avenues of engagement in mind: 1) resident service in a cultural setting other than the student's home culture (traditional missions); 2) stateside service in the home base of a mission organization; or 3) ministry that involves mobilizing

both workers and senders in the local church. As a part of their program, students carry out a field internship in a cross-cultural setting under the supervision of an experienced cross-cultural worker. A double-major and an associate's degree are also offered in this field of study.

Program Coordinator: Chris DeWalt

Students completing the BA in Intercultural Studies will be able to:

1. Outline a biblical theology of mission through both the Old and the New Testaments.
2. Create a basic plan for a sound missions program in a local church context.
3. Present a well-structured partnership plan for material and spiritual support for effective intercultural ministry.
4. Articulate a clear and specific understanding of the place of Western missionaries in the contemporary global Christian community.
5. Demonstrate a field-based understanding of mission life and work.
6. Employ research skills in producing an ethnographic study for the purpose of assessing entry-level subcultural settings.

Organizational Leadership Major – This program equips students to engage in any level of leadership within an organization through an understanding of leadership principles and practices combined with practical experiences and learning opportunities. The program is integrated with churches and local business, and with leaders from various organizations engaging the students on a regular basis. This degree uniquely positions a student to engage in different levels of leadership, in the ministry context and in the business setting, from a servant-based, Christocentric approach to leading.

Program Coordinator: Wade Landers

Students completing the BA in Organizational Leadership will be able to:

1. Articulate both biblical and philosophical concepts that underpin organizational leadership structures in churches and organizations.
2. Apply a theological foundation for organizational leadership in various contexts.
3. Describe major strategies and issues for engaging in effective organizational leadership.
4. Employ organizational leadership principles to manage conflict, navigate organizational changes, and build effective teams from a servant leadership approach.
5. Integrate standard business practices (financial, human resources, reporting procedures, data driven decision making, etc.) in a ministry context.
6. Demonstrate a field-based understanding of organizational leadership.
7. Lead a ministry utilizing their understanding of organizational leadership principles.

Counseling and Pastoral Care Major – This program is designed to give students a solid biblical base and the tools to do critical thinking in the area of psychology and counseling so that they can go from here and provide pastoral counseling in the church or pursue graduate work that will allow them to be a licensed professional in the various counseling fields. Students will receive training in crisis counseling, pastoral counseling, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, family relationships and the opportunity to choose elective classes in their particular area of interest.

Program Coordinator: Gary Zustiak

Students completing the BA in Counseling and Pastoral Care will be able to:

1. Assess and identify a person who is a potential suicide risk and implement the proper suicide intervention procedures.
2. Use the basic elements of effective pastoral counseling: attending, responding, personalizing and initiating in order to establish an effective counseling relationship and outcome.
3. Identify the main signs, symptoms and intervention procedures for clients who: self-injure, struggle with eating disorders, depression, pornography, self-esteem issues, relationship struggles, and alcohol or drug addictions.
4. Explain and implement the ABC method of crisis counseling.
5. Desire to pursue a Master's Degree in the area of Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT), or Master of Social Work (MSW).

Student Ministry Major – This program is aimed at training and inspiring the next wave of youth ministers to effectively lead Christ-Centered Student Ministries, guiding teenagers to become lifelong disciples of Jesus. Courses in this program are very practical in nature using lectures, projects, guest teachers, current studies of youth culture, interviews with youth workers on the field, hands-on experience, internships under veteran youth ministry mentors, and one-on-one evaluation meetings each semester with the head of the student ministry department.

Program Coordinator: Kevin Greer

Students completing the BA in Student Ministry will be able to:

1. Lead and guide teenagers (adolescents) to become lifelong disciples of Jesus.
2. Purposefully recruit and lead a team of adult volunteers in ministry to teenagers.
3. Design, administrate, and lead a Christ-centered student ministry for a specific context.
4. Articulate issues of risk management in student ministry and create appropriate systems to manage potential issues.
5. Effectively communicate lessons and sermons in a student ministry context.
6. Effectively counsel adolescents through attending, responding, personalizing and initiating with the counselee.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Bible and Intercultural Studies – This program offers a significant increase in the total credit hours in the area of intercultural studies over the standard BACM and gives the student an optimum preparation for entry level, field-based cross cultural ministry.

Program Coordinator: Chris DeWelt

In addition to the outcomes for the BA in Intercultural Studies, students with completing the double major will be able to:

1. Explain the principle characters and forces of Missions History.
2. Compare missiological principles in relationship to theology.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Bachelor of Arts in Music and Worship – The music and worship degree equips students to serve as worship arts pastors in churches and para-church ministries. The degree focuses on preparing students to lead with musical excellence, theological depth, and effective interpersonal pastoral skills. With a solid foundation in music theory, students develop vocal, guitar, and piano skills. The program emphasizes the importance of planning and leading

biblically rich and culturally sensitive worship services. Students are expected to put what they are learning into practice by participating in ministry opportunities both on and off campus, whether that is serving on a chapel team or with the worship team of a local church.

Program Coordinator: Matt Stafford

Students completing the BA in Music and Worship will be able to:

1. Articulate the history and biblical theology of worship practices.
2. Adapt and apply historical and theological worship practices in current worship contexts.
3. Plan and lead cohesive worship services for various contexts.
4. Recruit, disciple, and lead a creative arts team while serving alongside other ministry staff members.
5. Create musical arrangements for worship and lead a team in rehearsal.
6. Operate the production equipment needed for modern worship.
7. Demonstrate vocal and instrumental proficiency for leading worship.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Interdisciplinary Studies – This program combines an emphasis in biblical training at Ozark Christian College with courses in a specific discipline from Missouri Southern State University. The combination of these emphases results in an earned Bachelor degree at each institution. Many of the General Education courses are shared between these two degrees, allowing the student to complete both degrees in five years. This program prepares students to minister and serve as Christian leaders within the context of their chosen profession. Students may choose any major at MSSU to combine with their Bachelor degree at OCC.

Program Coordinator: Jody Lindsay

Students completing the BA in Bible and Interdisciplinary Studies will:

1. Complete a Bachelor degree at another institution with 40-42 hours transferring to OCC to complete the BIDS.
2. Effectively integrate how theology impacts/intersects the student's specific area of discipline studied.
3. Articulate a philosophy of work that is integrated and consistent with a biblical worldview.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (ONLINE DEGREE)

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies - This program is designed for the working adult student for whom moving to campus would not be feasible. The curriculum has been selected to teach Bible and ministry course through an exegetical theological perspective. The degree is also designed to accept the greatest amount of transfer work possible in order to make completing an undergraduate degree an attainable goal. Students graduating with the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies will be prepared for careers in vocational church work and Christian on-profit organizations. The degree empowers students with substantial scriptural knowledge, opportunities for spiritual maturation, cultural evaluation skills, and the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills.

Dean of Online Learning: Shawn Lindsay

2-YEAR BACHELOR COMPLETION DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry (for students with AA or BA) – This program is designed for students who have already completed an Associate of Arts or a Bachelor of Arts program at an accredited institution of higher education. Students who have already completed 30 hours in general education are given a foundation in

biblical and professional training. Graduates from this program will be prepared to serve in various ministry settings both in the church and the parachurch. This program may be completed in 4 to 5 semesters. (These students will accomplish the same competencies as the General Ministry Major.)

Program Coordinator: Chad Ragsdale

Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Global Outreach (for students with AA or BA) – This program is designed for students who have already completed an Associate of Arts or a Bachelor of Arts program at an accredited institution of higher education. Students who have already completed 30 hours in general education are given a foundation in biblical and professional training. The emphasis in this program is placed on preparation for ministry in a cross cultural context. This program may be completed in 4 to 5 semesters.

Program Coordinator: Chris DeWalt

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Arts in Christian Ministry – This program is designed to prepare students to complete their education at another institution. In addition to completing a number of hours in general education, students are trained in a biblical worldview and are given some foundational principles for Christian ministry. Graduates from this program will typically serve the church in a volunteer capacity.

Program Coordinator: Chad Ragsdale

Associate of Arts in Music and Worship – This program is designed for the student who desires a position of voluntary leadership in music ministry. The student will gain both a foundational knowledge of the Bible and a strong foundation of musical understanding. The skill level of the student's musicianship will be enhanced through private instruction and group participation. Frequently, this program is selected as an added area of study in addition to a bachelor's degree although graduates will also be positioned to complete their education at another institution.

Program Coordinator: Matt Stafford

Associate of Arts in Intercultural Studies – This program is designed for students who wish to develop their skills and deepen their passion for ministry that crosses cultural barriers. This preparation is accomplished with two avenues of engagement in mind: 1) stateside service in the home base of a mission organization; or 2) ministry that involves mobilizing both workers and senders in the local church. The specific skills needed for entry into cross cultural service in a stateside missions ministry are emphasized throughout the course of study. Should a student desire to continue her training in cross cultural ministry, this associate degree is ideally suited for that purpose at an undergraduate level.

Program Coordinator: Chris DeWalt